

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are currently pending in the present application, Claims 1 and 2 having been amended by way of the present amendment, and Claim 3 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bunker, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,128,182, hereinafter “Bunker”); and Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Swift (U.S. Pat. No. 1,981,440, hereinafter “Swift”).

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bunker, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 defines an envelope for recovering a used recording liquid cartridge including an inner layer made of material capable of absorbing recording liquid, and an outer layer made of water resistant material, wherein the inner layer and the outer layer are heat-sealed to achieve *continuous integration over the whole envelope without space between the inner layer and the outer layer*. Similarly, Claim 2 defines an envelope for recovering a used recording liquid cartridge..., wherein the inner layer and the outer layer are heat-sealed to achieve *continuous integration over the whole envelope without space between the inner layer and the outer layer*.

Indeed, as described by way of non-limiting example in Applicants' specification on page 7, lines 15-19, having an inner layer and an outer layer which are heat-sealed to achieve continuous integration over the whole envelope without space between the inner layer and the

¹ Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 2 is found at least on page 7, lines 15-19, and in Fig. 12.

outer layer improves the strength of the inner layer through the continuous integration of the inner layer with an outer layer having a greater strength.

Turning to the applied reference, Bunker describes that an absorbing layer 20 and a writable layer 30 are discontinuously adhered to a water resistant layer 40 to have air pockets 60, as illustrated in Fig. 1 of Bunker. Thus, Bunker fails to disclose or suggest “the inner layer and the outer layer are heat-sealed to achieve continuous integration over the whole envelope without space between the inner layer and the outer layer.”

Moreover, unlike the continuous integration over the whole envelope without space between the inner layer and the outer layer of the claimed invention, adhesion with air pockets, that is, spot adhesion, as described in Bunker, increases the risk that the inner layer will be punctured by an object having an edge, which, in the instant case, would cause a leakage of the recording liquid into the envelope.

Additionally, the material in Bunker has many air pockets. Therefore, if an envelope were made from the material described in Bunker, it would not be able to be compactly folded for storage due to the air pockets. In contrast, the claimed envelope has the advantage of being compactly folded.

Hence, Bunker does not disclose or suggest “the inner layer and the outer layer are heat-sealed to achieve continuous integration over the whole envelope without space between the inner layer and the outer layer,” as recited in Claims 1 and 2. M.P.E.P. § 2131 requires for anticipation that each and every feature of the claimed invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. Therefore, for all of the above reasons, Bunker does not disclose or suggest “an envelope for recovering a used recording liquid cartridge,” as defined in Claims 1 and 2.

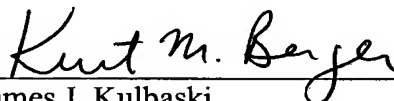
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, making the rejection of this claim moot.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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